64.	Shahjajanpur
65.	Jhansi
66.	Jaunpur
XXIII. West Bengal	
67.	Birbhurm
68.	North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas
69.	Malda
70	Nadia
XXIV. Sikkim	
71.	Sikkim

[English]

Export of Turmeric

*595. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India enjoys the monopoly in turmeric in the world market and annual export of turmeric is around 5 per cent of its total production;

(b) if so, the reasons for this low percentage in the exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world accounting for 6.60 lakhs M.T. (1994-95). Our annual exports are 27000-28000 M.T., which is 4-5 per cent of the total domestic production.

(b) Domestic demand for turmeric in the country is very high due to its various applications in food/non-food segments. However, more than 70 per cent of the total world demand is met by the supplies from India.

(c) Some of the steps undertaken to boost exports of spices, including turmeric are sponsoring trade delegations abroad, inviting overseas buyers fro interaction with exporters, participation in trade fairs, awarding of logo/spice house certificate in recognition of maintenance of quality, assistance for investment in processing facilities, providing financial assistance for setting up laboratories, technology transfer, process upgradation and product developments facilities.

Investment in Kuwait

*596. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian companies have applied for settig up their units in Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the total investment being made by the Indian investors;

(c) whether the Government have given permission to Indian Companies to set upo their units in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). Approval has been granted to two Indian companies for setting up their units in Kuwait in the field of power, desalination plant and telecommunications. The total equity investment approved in these two units is equivalent to Rs. 179.52 lakhs. No application from Indian companies for making investment in Kuwait is pending.

Assistance to Exporters through Spices Board

*597. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board has formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to the spice exporters;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme ;

(c) whether the quality of spices has lowered due to lack of high technique;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide grant-in-aid for setting up new technology to the spices processing industrialists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Spices Board is implementing a number of schemes with financial assistance for the benefits of exporters. These include :

(i) Grant-in-aid for technology transfer & process upgradation;

(ii) Reimbursement of air freight/courier for sending spice samples abroad;

(iii) Grant-in-aid for printing brochures

(iv) Providing interest free loan to exporters of spices with approved brands in consumer packs to create a brand image for branded consumer packs of spices in overseas markets;

(v) Grant-in-aid for developing consumer packs for export purpose;

(vi) Providing grant-in-aid for setting up/upgradation of quality control laboratories.